Tilting of Qutab Minar

3252. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that study has been carried out to find out if Qutab Minar in Delhi has tilted;

(b) if so, the details thereof such as extent of tilt, its effect on safety of Minar and its surroundings etc.; and

(c) what precautionary measures are being taken to prevent any mishap?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The study of tilting of Qutab Minar, Delhi has been carried out by Geodetic and Research Branch of Survey of India, Dehradun.

(b) Based on the Triangulation, Traversing and levelling data which was observed from 1975-1994, Survey of India, *vide* the report dated 16.02.1998 confirmed that the extent of tilt of Qutab Minar has been very negligible being at the rate of 9-10 arc seconds per year. The study pertaining to tilting of Qutab Minar was repeated in April, 2005 and the computation is in progress. However, the preliminary study shows that there is not much of a change from the earlier report. Exact amount of tilt observed during the recent study will be known after the completion of the computations.

(c) The foundation of the Minar has been strengthened by grouting in the year 1971-72. Further measures, if required, will be taken after receipt of final report from Survey of India.

Study on minarets of Taj Mahal

3253. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Survey of India is getting a study conducted to examine the Taj's four minarets to check for a possible tilt;

(b) if so, whether Archaeological Survey of India has also asked the School of Planning and Architecture to prepare a common master plan for the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri at Agra; and

(c) whether these study reports are likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has requested the Survey of India, Dehradun to conduct such a study.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The report from Survey of India is yet to be received.

Strengthening of regions attracting tourists

3254. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had hardly paid any attention to the States who had contributed significantly to the country's culture as they attract a large number of tourists;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen these regions?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3659 monuments/archaeological sites which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which have been in existence for not less than one hundred years. The state-wise distribution of the same is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

Various on-going measures of structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development are being undertaken for these monuments and sites. 125 monuments are ticketed and these attract a large number of tourists from both India and abroad. Special attention is given to these sites by way of provision of tourist related facilities and environmental upgradation.

The government of India has taken several steps to strengthen the tourist infrastructure. The Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of tourism circuits and destinations has also provided financial assistance to the State Governments for improving infrastructure available and to make it to the international standard by way of landscaping, internal pathways, signages, etc. A statement showing state-wise tourism projects sanctioned during the tenth plan (as on 31.12.2004) is given in the Statement-II.